Introduction of New Drugs

7459. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the past one and a half decade new drugs have been introduced numbering about 200 molecules out of 500 effectively used molecules but still the basket of drugs in the wholesale price index have not been changed;

(b) the rationale of retaining chloramphenicol, Streptomycin pencilline, Vitamins, Amodiaguin etc. when the use of these drugs have declined;

(c) since when is this basket under review and the reason for not selecting a new basket; and

(d) whether it is a fact that price rise is being suppressed by using old and obsolete basket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The current Wholesale Price Index series (1981-82=100) is based on the recommendation made by the working Group set up in April 1982. The Wholesale Price Index is calculated according to a formula, which has a fixed base year with weighting diagram operating through the entire life span of the series.

In view of structural & other changes, a new working Group for the revision of current series of Wholesale Price Index numbers has been set up by the Ministry of Industry in June 93.

New Fertilizer Plants

7460. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new fertilizer plants in the country during the next three years, particularly for the production of urea;

(b) if so, the location, installed capacity and other details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any proposal in this connection is laying pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when these are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether Government propose to adopt a new fertilizer policy in the current financial year; and

(f) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) As per the Statement on Industrial Policy announced by the Government on July 24, 1991, industrial licensing has been abolished for the fertilizer industry. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects any where in India subject to environmental clearance. Government has recently approved a proposal of IFFCO for expansion of their existing fertilizer plant at Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh) to produce 7.26 lakh tonnes urea per annum at a cost of Rs. 993.60 crores. Government has also approved the Rs. 119.08 crore expansion project of IFFCO, Kalol to produce an additional 1.50 lakh MT of urea per annum. NFL Panipat plant's expansion proposal is similar to IFFCO, Phulpur; various parameters are being firmed up by NFL. These are in addition to the two major expansion projects viz. IFFCO Aonla and NFL Vijaipur of 7.26 lakh tonnes urea per annum capacity each, presently under implementation.

A new grass-roots ammonia-urea project of 7.26 lakh tonnes urea capacity in the private sector is also expected to be commissioned in the later half of 1995-96 at Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh). In addition, M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. are presently doubling the capacity of their existing ammonia-urea plants to produce an additional 4.95 lakh tonnes of urea per annum.